

February 7, 1975

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'll say what I mentioned in the committee this morning. At the end of the session there will always be a glut of bills, no matter how we say we ought to avoid it, we're not going to. We all know that a bill has to remain on final reading one day. Is that correct? It is correct. Now, if I can pick my day to catch a bill on Select File and move that it be indefinitely postponed and delay it a legislative day so that with my motion and delaying it a legislative day, it will wind up on Final Reading the last day of the session. I've killed it. I think there comes a point where the individual whose bill it is has a right to determine to some extent what consideration will be given of that bill. If a motion is made to kill it, or to do something else with it, that person may be in a position, whose bill it is right now, to deal with it. Perhaps the one who makes the motion is not really prepared but has 24 hours, or a legislative day, to get ready. So whatever you want to do you can do it. I feel I've discharged my responsibility. I'm not going to support these changes. I do not believe they are essential to the making up of an agenda. I don't see where they'll have anything to do with an agenda. It will delay, for a legislative day, put off till tomorrow what we were going to do today. If you have three motions to kill bills, or to indefinitely postpone bills on Select File, tomorrow you take up the three of them. The only difference is that you know tomorrow you're going to have to put some other things off until the following day because you've got to deal with these three motions. The way it is now, if a motion is made to indefinitely postpone, you can go ahead and dispose of it at the time the motion is made. This may be the fairest thing to the person whose bill it is. While we're talking about an orderly procedure for the Legislature, I don't think we ought to hasten to put rules into the rule book with the proviso that we may be ready at a moments notice to change these rules. It will take 30 votes to do that. Maybe enough members like what will happen from these changes that occur. If 20 like it, 20 plus 29 is 49. You don't have enough votes to change. So I caution you on this and I know you'll vote the way you decide is best. I've said everything I could to discourage you from taking this action. I don't believe it's wise and I don't believe it's necessary. I do believe that Senator Burbach can put together an agenda. All an agenda is, remember, is a listing of the things we're going to try to do. If, on any day that he makes out an agenda, there is a spot in there for debate that can blow the rest of the agenda. There is no way to provide an ironclad method of determining and assuring that everything on the agenda will be gotten to, unless we arbitrarily are going to say whenever we're debating we'll limit the amount of debate to 30 or 40 minutes, or whatever it takes to fit it into the agenda. Then you become a slave to the agenda. It is a straightjacket to which all of the legislative procedures and operations are subordinated. I do not think that is a responsible position to take. I advise you to not adopt these changes.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.